

Apostles Defend Their Faith

Acts 5:12-42

When Being
a Christian Is
TOUGH

"When Being a Christian Is Tough"

*When being a Christian is tough
And you don't think you have the right stuff,
You're never alone,
Be strong as a stone.
God's love is always enough.*

BIBLE STORY (THE BASICS)

This week's Bible story was about the apostles and the tough time they had being Christians. The high priest was jealous of them because God used them to do all kinds of cool things, such as healing the sick and telling people all about Jesus. The high priest decided to put the apostles in jail to keep them quiet. Well, God had a different plan and sent an angel to the jail to set them free!

As soon as they got out of jail, the apostles again began talking about Jesus. This time the high priest became really mad and threatened to kill them! A man named Gamaliel spoke up and told the high priest to be careful. He told the high priest that if the apostles were making everything up, they would fail. But if they did things from God's power, nobody could stop them. The high priest decided that it wouldn't be such a good idea to fight God, so he ordered the apostles to stop talking about Jesus, and he let them go. Well, those apostles went on telling people about Jesus. They were happy because they knew that the scary time they had in jail and before the high priest was all part of being Christians, and they were glad to suffer for the name of Jesus.

Bible Point: Keep following God, even when it's hard.

Key Verse: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance" (James 1:2-3).

Bible Truth Sleuth

LESSON 6



When Being a Christian Is TOUGH

THE WORD FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY Philemon 6

What are some benefits of sharing your faith?

TUESDAY Matthew 5:11-12

How does Jesus want you to respond to persecution?

WEDNESDAY Romans 12:17-21

What can you do when someone gives you a hard time because of your faith?

THURSDAY Psalm 37:39-40

Why should you take refuge (or shelter) in God?

FRIDAY 2 Timothy 4:6-8

Why should you persevere, or keep going, even when it's difficult?

SATURDAY Psalm 118:6

Describe a time God helped you when you were afraid to tell someone about Jesus.

Jesus Sets Us Free

Create a jail cell using toothpicks or craft sticks. Leave a small opening in the top. During the week, have family members write the trials they face on slips of paper and put them in the jail. At the end of the week, assign a family member to break open the jail. Hand out the slips of paper, and have each family member pray for the person and trial written on his or her slip of paper. After each prayer, say in unison, "Jesus sets us free."



Perseverance Hike

On a nice day, take your family on a hike. A mountain trail or hill with a steep grade would be ideal. As family members start to get tired, begin encouraging them to persevere. At the top of the mountain or hill, read James 1:2-3: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance." You may also want to sing the song you've learned in class, "Perseverance" (James 1:2-3). Then talk about how climbing up that mountain or hill was like a trial and how persevering and making it to the top gave you joy!

PARENT STUMPER

Q: Where did all of the believers meet?

A: at Solomon's Colonnade



Daily Challenge

Today kids committed to one of the following Daily Challenges. Help your child weave faith into life and follow through on his or her challenge! (Have kids circle their choice below.)

- Write the name of someone you can tell about Jesus—and be sure to follow through!
- Tell someone in your family today's Bible story. See how much you can remember!
- Each morning, pray and tell God that you're going to follow him that day!

